

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

The ANNUAL REPORTS

of

The Medical Officer of Health

and of

The Sanitary Inspector

For 1935.

H. Heginbotham, Printer, Stamford Street, Mossley.





BOROUGH OF MOSSLEY.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

The

ANNUAL REPORTS

of

The Medical Officer of Health

and of

The Sanitary Inspector

For 1935.

H. Heginbotham, Printer, Stamford Street, Mossley.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health, 1935.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH,
SEWAGE AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my seventh Annual Report.

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) 3,624. Population, Census 1931, 12,042.
Estimated resident population (middle 1935) 11,450.

Number of inhabited houses, 1921, 3,247, End of 1935, according to Rate Book, 3,521. Rateable value, £43,337. Sum represented by a penny rate, £167.

The district is almost entirely an industrial one, and the chief industry is that of cotton spinning, although in recent years a number of mills have been closed and dismantled. In addition there are three woollen manufacturing mills, two wool-combing mills, a wire rope factory and two small foundries. None of these industries are in themselves injurious to health.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	119	65	54	
	Illegitimate	2	1	1	
	Total	121	66	55	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population...10'5
Stillbirths	...	8	3	5	Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births ...62
Deaths	...	155	68	87	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population...13'5

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal sepsis	Deaths.	1	Death Rate per 1,000
Other puerperal causes		2	(live and still)
		—	Births .....23'25
Total		3	

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	99
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			100
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	nil

RATES PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION

POPULATION. 11,450.

	Per 1000 of estimated population	Live Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Maternal Mortality Rate. Per 1000 Live Births.	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births.
<i>Mean of five</i>								
<i>years 1930-1934</i>	12.2	13.8	0.43	2.09	5.51	5.30	61	
<i>Year 1934 ...</i>	11.2	14.7	0.08	2.41	15.38	15.03	69	
<i>Year 1935 ...</i>	10.5	13.5	0.78	1.48	24.79	23.25	99	
<i>Increase or decrease</i>								
<i>in 1935 on 5 years'</i>								
<i>average</i>	-1.7	-0.3	+0.35	-0.61	+19.28	+17.95	+38	
<i>Previous Year</i>	-0.7	-1.2	+0.70	-0.93	+9.41	+8.22	+30	
1935 Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.08) = 14.5 per 1,000.								

2. Causes of Death.

	Males.	Females.
1. All Causes	68	87
2. Measles	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Influenza	1	0
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
8. Cerebrospina Fever	0	1
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	6
10. Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...	1	0
11. Syphilis	0	0

					Males.	Females.
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis. ...	...	...	...	0	0
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	...	...	...	5	12
14.	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	0	3
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	...	...	...	3	5
16.	Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	14	23
17.	Aneurysm ...	...	...	...	0	0
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases ...	...	...	...	7	8
19.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	3	1
20.	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	1	7
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	0	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer ...	...	...	...	1	0
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	0	0
24.	Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	0	1
25.	Cirrhosis of the Liver ...	...	...	...	1	0
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver ...	...	...	...	0	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases ...	...	...	...	1	0
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	...	...	...	9	5
29.	Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	—	1
30.	Other Puerperal Causes ...	...	...	...	—	2
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations ...	...	...	...	5	1
32.	Senility ...	...	...	...	2	3
33.	Suicide ...	...	...	...	1	0
34.	Other Violence ...	...	...	...	4	1
35.	Other Defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	6	4
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...	...	...	...	0	0

3. Notifiable Diseases.

Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Cases Notified.										Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to this District
		under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 & over	
Smallpox ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Erysipelas...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	0	0
Scarlet fever	5	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Ophthalmia }	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Neonatorum }		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Acute primary }	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	7
Pneumonia }		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Acute Influenza }	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia }		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Enteric fever	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia }	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	0	1
Puerperal fever }	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Encephalitis lethargica }	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Totals	15	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	5	3	1	0	1

Tuberculosis.

(1) The notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient.

New Cases and Mortality during 1935.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Years.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5-10	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20-25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25-35	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
35-45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45-55	1	2	...	...	1	3	...	...
55-65	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	...
65 and upward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	2	1	3	3	5	1	0
Totals	4		4		8		1	

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were no cases of this disease during the year.

4. Causes of Sickness.

During the year there have been no special causes giving rise to disease, nor has there been any unusual prevalence of any particular disease.

5. Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available in the district.

1. (a.) General Nursing. The Mossley Sick Nursing Association, which is supported entirely by voluntary subscription, employs one Nurse, who attends non-infectious cases among the sick.

(b.) Infectious diseases and maternity cases. No provision.

2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There are no General Hospitals within the area. The Borough is however served by two general hospitals in the neighbouring area of Ashton-under-Lyne, viz :- (a) The District Infirmary, with 200 beds, medical and surgical, and the usual special departments. Arrangements exist for the admission of cases of difficult labour, and puerperal pyrexia and puerperal fever cases. (b) The Lake Hospital, under the Lancashire Public Assistance Committee, with over 300 beds for cases of all kinds, with no special departments, and with a large maternity block. Fever Hospitals :- (c) For small-pox, beds are available at Hartshead, at the Ashton Joint Board Hospital, to which a yearly retaining fee is paid. (d) Other Infectious Diseases. An agreement has been completed with Hyde Corporation, whereby on payment of an annual retaining fee, beds are retained for such cases as are deemed unsuitable for being cared for in their own homes.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance for the transport of non-infectious

is maintained by the Corporation at the Fire Station, and is available at all hours at a nominal fee. Recently a new ambulance of the latest type has been purchased to replace the old one.

Laboratory Facilities, etc.

Clinical specimens requiring examination in regard to public health, viz :- diphtheria, enteric, and allied fevers, may be sent by practitioners to Professor Maitland, at the Department of Preventive Medicine Laboratories, York Place, Manchester, or to Dr. A. W. Laing, D.P.H., Dip. Bact., at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne. All specimens of sputum for T.B. will be examined by the local Tuberculosis Officers. Diphtheria anti-toxin may be obtained at any time from the residence of the Medical Officer of Health. Anti-strepto-coccal serum for the treatment of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia in their early stages is also provided by the Corporation.

Midwives Acts, 1902-1926.

There are three midwives practising in the area, all of whom possess their C.M.B. These are supplemented by non-resident midwives.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

A Welfare Centre administered by the Corporation, in charge of Dr. M. L. Gilchrist, assisted by a whole time nurse, is held weekly at the Stamford Road Methodist School. Fresh milk is supplied to necessitous cases at reduced charges.

An Ante-Natal clinic is held once monthly at the Centre in charge of Dr. Gilchrist, and midwives are invited to attend.

Sterilised outfits for doctors or midwives are provided by Corporation.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (part time),
Leonard White, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector,
Ernest Slater, A.R.SAN.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector,
John Norman Harrison, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LEONARD WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

1935.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH,
SEWAGE AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1935.

Drainage.

The construction of a 12-inch sewer in Mill Lane and a 9-inch sewer in Carrhill Road, which was commenced in November, is practically completed, the length of the proposed sewer being 1,000 feet. Thirty-six new houses have been connected to the public sewer and all new private drains have been tested by the smoke test. Twenty-nine existing houses, which previously drained into the County Brook, have been connected to the new Carrhill Road—Mill Lane Sewer. Fourteen defective drains have been cleared or relaid.

Infectious Diseases, Vermin and Disinfections.

Sixteen infected rooms and 92 articles of clothing and bedding have been disinfected. Complaints were received about the verminous condition of seven houses, the respective owners were notified and they carried out all the necessary work and thoroughly cleansed the premises, to the tenants and my satis-

faction ; no further complaint has been received from any of the occupiers of the premises concerned. Rooms occupied by persons suffering from tuberculosis are disinfected in cases where the patients are removed to Sanatoria, and in cases which terminate fatally. Householders frequently desire to have beds and bedding treated at the disinfecting station upon the fatal termination of an illness which is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Acts. In cases where the doctor in attendance or the Medical Officer of Health considers such treatment desirable, the work is done free of charge. In other cases a charge is made towards the cost incurred. Disinfection of bedding etc. is carried out at the Corporation Depot, Scout. The apparatus consists of an Alliot & Paton's Patent High Pressure Steam Disinfector. All Day Schools are sprayed with disinfectant once per week during term time. Householders who reside within the district are supplied with disinfectant for domestic use, free of charge, on application at the Town Hall. A man is in attendance on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. The distribution of disinfectants free of cost requires to be strictly supervised, otherwise waste and misuse occur. Disinfectants should not be used in an attempt to disinfect drains and get rid of a foul odour which, on investigation, may be found to be due to some defect in the system ; nor as substitutes for soap and water, fresh air, and sunlight.

Scavenging and Disposal of Refuse.

The Town Council made an offer, to property owners, to supply a dustbin for every house now using a fixed ashpit at a reduced rate, on condition that the use of the ashpit ceased. This offer was originally open for three months, but was extended to the 31st March 1936. Up to the 31st December 1935, 1625 bins were distributed under the scheme, replacing 384 fixed ashpits. Also, 22 bins were supplied to replace six ashpits prior to the scheme. It is estimated that there are now

209 ashpits in the Borough, 244 fixed, and 2545 movable. They are emptied weekly, the contents being carted to the tip on Corporation land at Scont. About 2900 loads per annum are thus dealt with, equivalent to about 79 tons per week, on the average. No charge is at present made to shopkeepers for the removal and disposal of trade refuse. There is still approximately 25% of the refuse stored in fixed ashpits. When the offer is closed, I believe the time will be opportune to reconsider the question of the adoption, or otherwise, of motor vehicles for the collection of house refuse. The amount of refuse handled per week is increasing. The increased use of gas and electrical appliances for cooking and heating makes it difficult for the housewife to burn combustible refuse, especially in the summer time. During the year 390 fixed ashpits have ceased to be used and 1647 dustbins have been substituted. The land available for tipping is nearly exhausted. There are 2828 pail closets, 737 fresh-water-flush closets, and 145 waste water closets. Two ashpits have been converted to pail closets. The pails are emptied once per week, cleaned and disinfected. The solid and a proportion of the liquid contents are mixed with a suitable absorbent and disposed of as a fertiliser. The night-soil is removed during the night, between the months of April and October. The number of fresh-water-flush closets has increased by 39 during the year.

Lodging Houses.

There are two Common Lodging Houses within the Borough, both are registered and are very old buildings, situated one in Upper Mossley and the other in Lower Mossley. Considerable repairs were carried out during the year at both these premises, as a result of informal notices served, which have greatly raised the health and cleanliness standard of these premises. Repairs included the making of windows to open, drainage and plasterwork repairs, roof made watertight, repaving of common yards and passages, etc.

Inspections are made frequently and the premises have usually been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition by the proprietors. Limewashing and cleansing have been carried out when required.

Nuisances.

One hundred and forty-eight informal and five statutory notices have been served. One hundred and seventy-four nuisances have been abated. In addition many defects and nuisances have been attended to by owners as a result of personal interviews. In the majority of cases owners of property maintain their houses in a reasonable state of repair. I regret to say that there are always some owners and agents of property who fail to carry out the most necessary work, unless and until pressure has been brought to bear by the officials of the Health Department. There is also a class of tenant who fails to maintain the premises he occupies in a reasonable state of cleanliness. Several nuisances of this type have been abated.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

No notices have been received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories. One notice of occupation has been received for a workshop in Carrhill Road for the purposes of firewood and firelighter manufacture. Everything was found to be satisfactory. H M. Inspector of Factories was notified of this new workshop.

Slaughter-houses and Tripe-Boiling Works.

There are six slaughter-houses, two registered and four licensed. There are two tripe-boiling establishments at present

in use. All the above are periodically inspected. It has not been necessary to take any proceedings for infringements of Bye-Laws or Regulations.

Meat Inspection and Meat Regulations.

Slaughter-houses have been inspected whilst killing and dressing have been in progress, the carcasses and organs being examined. Parts and offals of carcasses to the extent of two hundredweights have been condemned and destroyed on account of Tuberculosis, etc.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are the officials duly authorised by the Council to administer the Meat Regulations. Inspections are made at intervals, special attention being given to stalls in the open Market Place and to meat in transit. Four stallholders on the Market were warned regarding infringement of the Meat Regulations 1924. In each case the stallholder had omitted to post his name and address on the stall as required by the Regulations. The omission was rectified the following Market day.

Bakehouses.

There are 29 bakehouses within the Borough, all registered in accordance with the Factory and Workshop Act. Most of these are on a small scale, the occupiers baking for their own retail trade.

As a result of an informal notice, a new water closet and flushing apparatus have been fixed on the premises of a bakehouse and shop to replace a defective plug closet, which was used by the female workers.

Limewashing has been carried out when necessary, general condition and cleanliness are good, and no offences have been detected from this source.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are 17 farms, 31 cowsheds, and 16 cowkeepers within the Borough. The cowkeepers retail the milk which they produce and are registered as cowkeepers and purveyors, There are 15 cowkeepers who reside outside the Borough and retail milk within this district. They are all registered. Three milkshops, one retail dairy and four wholesale producers are also registered. All farm premises are regularly inspected, in order to ensure compliance with the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Notices to lime-wash are sent to all the farmers within the Borough twice annually.

There is one person registered to retail "Certified" milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. This milk is sold in sealed bottles, as received by the retailer from the producer. No other grades of milk under the above-mentioned Order are produced or sold within the Borough. There is, however, an increasing sale of bottled milk, a number of small retail traders dealing in this commodity. All persons handling this product have been registered as "wholesale purveyors of milk" or "retail purveyors of milk" as the case may be. There are on the register 19 retail purveyors and six wholesale purveyors of bottled milk.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act

The statistical quarterly returns under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925 were all "nil" returns. No outbreak of notifiable disease has occurred within the Borough during the year.

The issuing of movement licenses and inspections arising out of the movements of animals under licence are dealt with by the Police, who, when necessary, call in on behalf of the Mossley Corporation a qualified veterinary surgeon for examination of contacts of notifiable disease.

Smoke Abatement.

Factories. No timed observations of factory chimneys have been made. The emission of black smoke allowed by the regulation of the Council is five minutes in thirty minutes. Owing to the depression in the cotton trade, several of the factories are closed.

Domestic Chimneys. The Police have taken proceedings against several occupiers of houses on account of chimneys being fired. A small fine has invariably been imposed.

Sewage Works.

The Inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee have visited the works on several occasions. The effluent has been variable in quality. The samples which were taken for analysis failed to reach the standard of purity required by the Joint Rivers' Board.

A Flow Recording Apparatus has been installed at the works for the purpose of measuring the daily flow. Readings have been taken regularly and forwarded to Mr. A. H. S. Waters, Consulting Engineer, together with the Rainfall readings.

The Mossley Woolcombing Company are negotiating with the Mossley Corporation for their trade waste to be taken by the Corporation sewers.

The accumulation of dried sludge has been removed from the lagoons and spread over the Corporation tip at Scout.

Housing.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	36
(1) By the Local Authority	None
(2) By other Local Authorities.....	None
(3) By other bodies and persons	36

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :-

(1) By the Local Authority	None
(2) By other bodies or persons.....	None

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	294
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	882

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	18
---	----

(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	36
---	----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
--	----

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	109
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	48
3.	Action under Statutory powers during the year :-	
	A—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a)	By owners.....	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	None
	B—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners.....	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	None

C—Proceeding under sections 19 and 21 of the
Housing Act, 1930 :

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect
of which Demolition Orders were
made | None |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolish-
ed in pursuance of Demolition
Orders | None |

D—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing
Act, 1930 :

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or
underground rooms in respect of
which Closing Orders were made ... | None |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or
underground rooms in respect of
which Closing Orders were deter-
mined, the tenement or room having
been rendered fit | None |

(b) Housing Conditions.

1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from over-crowding...

...There is no shortage of houses, though the standard is not high. The prevailing type consists of living-room, scullery, and two bed-rooms, and has no fixed bath—aged about twenty to sixty years—approximate number, seventy-five per cent. They are mostly built of local sandstone and are fairly sound. Defective roofs and gutters, with subsequent dampness, etc., are the chief defects which require attention.

Sufficiency of supply of houses :

- (a) Extent of shortage, if any, of houses available at reasonable rents, and the measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage...
...No shortage exists.
- (b) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in future...
...No important changes during 1935.
- (c) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses...
...No special difficulty has been experienced in the past.

3. Overcrowding :

- (a) Extent. The basis on which the estimate has been made should be stated...
...No overcrowding exists. The minimum air space per adult is 300 cubic feet. The average number of persons per house is 3.40 (approx.)
- (b) Causes—how far is it due to inability to pay the rents of available houses...
... _____
- (c) Example of special action taken during the year 1935 to deal with overcrowding...
... _____

4. Fitness of houses :

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts...
...None.

- (b) Special measures taken or suggested, e.g., in relation to particular types of insanitary property or in regard to arrangements for the gradual carrying out of programmes of repair...

...Section 19, Housing Act, 1930. 40 houses are to be demolished in the four years 1935-1939, at the rate of ten per annum. The building of 12 new houses for displaced persons during 1935 is practically completed, and when complete the tenants of the houses scheduled for demolition or closing will be transferred and their houses immediately dealt with.

- (c) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply 34
- (d) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation..... None

5. Unhealthy Areas :

Extent to which areas of the district are unhealthy, with information as to complaints received or representations made, and action taken, in regard to any of these areas...

...There are no unhealthy areas.

6. Action taken during the year regarding :-

- (a) Clearance Areas:

Number of areas represented None
 comprising — houses.
 Number of areas cleared None
 comprising — houses.
 Number of new houses built to re-
 house displaced tenants... None

(b) Improvement Areas :

Number of areas represented	None
comprising	— houses.
Number of houses demolished	None
comprising	— houses.
Number of new houses built to replace displaced tenants ...	None

7. Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c. :

Adequacy of existing byelaws of each class, and special difficulties in or limits upon their enforcement...

...Adequate.

8. General observations on housing matters not already covered, and on any difficulties experienced in housing administration and the measures taken to meet them...

...None

Local Authority's Housing Scheme :

Give brief particulars of any scheme now in hand or contemplated...

...Twelve houses are in course of erection at Black-rock, Mossley, to rehouse persons whose houses will be closed or demolished, and are practically complete. The erection of further houses will be considered at a later date if found necessary.

Petroleum Acts and Explosives.

Inspections of petrol stores have been made. No breaches of the regulations were found. One new licence was issued and 17 licences were renewed for the storage of a maximum aggregate volume of 14,050 gallons of petroleum spirit.

The registration of 17 premises for the storage and
of mixed explosives (fireworks) has been renewed for 1955.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST SLATER, A.R.San.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.



